

# BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

## Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 4/2/14 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

### ROLL CALL:

AK – Doug Gibbs

AZ –

CA – Nate Gogna

CO/WY – Brian Achziger

EA –

ID –

MT – John Thompson

NV –NM – Charley Luevano

OR/WA –

UT – Cheri Ausgotharp

NIFC – Mike Ellsworth

NIFC – Pam McDonald

Aviation –

Fuels – Dave Mueller

### AGENDA ITEMS:

#### 1. FOG Update

(Ellsworth)

##### *L-Course Proposal*

Mike presented the L-course requirement proposal at the March FOG meeting. The FOG approved the BFTC's request, with minor modifications (add language addressing better availability of agency cadres, and possible national office funding support). Paul Hohn, Jeff Arnberger, and Mike Ellsworth will make the required changes and present to the FLT.

##### *Dozer Qualifications*

There are two different classifications for dozer operations (DZOP and DZIA) in the AD pay plan; the intent originally was for one to be supervised and one non-supervised. Current BLM policy is that all dozer operations will be supervised by agency personnel. The FWS has eliminated their DZIA qualification and has a required task book for the remaining DZOP qual. The FOG has mixed opinions on the need for one position or two; Steve Shaw will go back to the dozer task group and provide a clean recommendation to the FOG on its next call. (Reprinted from FOG notes)

##### *Yarnell Site Visit Overview*

Good discussions among FOG members and IHC superintendents followed the Yarnell site visit. IHC superintendents plan to take back the information and facts and then open it up to individuals to provide their own perspectives and conclusions rather than lead them to any particular answers.

##### *FOG Member Briefings by BFTC Members*

Mike reiterated the importance of BFTC members briefing their FOG members regarding training issues and initiatives. Brian Achziger supported the need for communication.

- 2. IQCS Updates** (Ellsworth)  
*S-200 and ENOP*  
S-200 has been removed as an ENOP requirement.
- BL-300, BL-306, and RT-301*  
Title changes were made to BL-300, BL-306, and RT-301.
- ACTION: Provide a short email addressing recent changes made to IQCS and send to BFTC members for distribution throughout the BLM training community by April 30, 2014.**  
**(Mike Ellsworth)**
- 3. BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development** (Ellsworth)  
The BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development (Training Standards) was signed and uploaded to the [BLM Wildland Fire Training and Workforce Development website](#). As standard operating procedure, BFTC members should share throughout their networks.
- 4. Action Item Commitment** (Ellsworth)  
Action items will be incorporated into the conference call/meeting agenda to ensure nothing gets lost and accomplishments are noted. BFTC members are encouraged to notify Mike or Pam when action items are completed. Otherwise, members should be prepared to provide status updates.
- 5. NWCG Hazard Tree Proposal (#2012-26)** (Ellsworth)  
The Hazard Tree Task Group has presented a proposal to OWDC regarding Faller A, B, C. The group appears to have landed on dual pathways and more alignment with NIMS requirements. (OPEN)
- 6. ATGS to ASGS Proposal (#2013-22)** (Gibbs/Ellsworth)  
The task group is refining their proposal. A final product should be available for review soon. (OPEN)
- 7. BLM Process Language for Priority Trainee in Training Standards (#2012-38)** (Ellsworth)  
Language was included in the Training Standards and will be refined in the 2015 version. (OPEN)
- 8. Process for Mobilizing RX Trainees through ROSS (#2012-39)** (Mueller)  
Dave Mueller has heard little talk about a need for mobilizing RX trainees through ROSS and recommends the action item be dropped. BFTC members felt states were handling mobilization and concurred to dropping the item. (DROPPED)
- 9. Task Team Update on BLM Training Scholarship Fund (#2012-41)** (Ellsworth)  
BFTC members are in support of developing a scholarship program and selection matrix if funds are available to support such an effort. Nate Gogna suggested supporting L-courses

as a first level effort to help should the FLT support required leadership training. Nate Gogna will assist Mike, Jeff, and Pam in the effort to develop a scholarship program plan. (OPEN)

**10. BLM Approval of S-420 for MSC Version (#2013-16) (Ellsworth)**

A directive will be issued to follow up the recent email sent to BFTC members recognizing a GATRs choice to offer MCS's "Organizational Leadership for the Command & General Staff" as an alternate delivery of S-420 and L-480. The directive will NOT issue BLM equivalency for either course.

The BFTC discussed putting the directive language into the Training Standards. Caution was given that a standard was not created. This course is no different from any other course where a GATR opts for an alternate delivery.

Nate Gogna advised the BFTC that California used the alternate delivery but will not in the future. John Thompson noted that Montana decided in February that they will be going forward with the traditional version of S-420. (CLOSED, less directive)

**11. Non-fire Mandatory Training FOG Tasking (#2013-23/24) (Ellsworth)**

The BFTC determined that the non-fire mandatory training tasking was still a worthy effort. The task group will develop a plan of action that may include a work group effort during the fall face-to-face meeting. (OPEN)

**12. State-Level Certification Process for Command and General Staff (Ellsworth)**

A process should be finalized by the end of the week regarding a state-level certification process for Command and General staff. Information regarding the process will be issued through the directive system and incorporated into the 2015 Training Standards. (CLOSED, less directive)

**13. Chainsaw Refresher Ideas from IHC, Smokejumper, and Helitack Committee (Ellsworth)**

Mike Ellsworth will work with Doug Gibbs and Brian Rindlisbacher to work on a white paper addressing the training gap that was identified with regard to chainsaw refreshers. BFTC members support an objectives-based refresher similar to RT-301 if more formal guidance is determined by the FOG.

**ROUND ROBIN:**

**Alaska (Gibbs)**

- Doug is conducting interviews this week for the PFT training position. He hopes to have a selection made later in the week.

**CA (Gogna)**

- NIJAC recently met. They approved replacing L-380 with a wilderness survival class.
- Paul Banister will be submitting a formal request to the FLT soliciting an official response regarding BLM's involvement in the Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Academy.

- California is reviewing all training plans to determine an efficient use of training dollars.
- California is performing a wide-scale look at engine academies and considering converting to a regional approach.

**CO/WY (Achziger)**

- Training season is well under way.

**MT (Thompson)**

- The Rocky Mountain Training Center is developing a plan to scale back on course offerings. They are considering a plan that includes alternate year delivery and in some cases only once every few years.

**NM (Luevano)**

- Fire personnel are coming on duty and orientations have begun.
- The ATV/UTV discussion resides with BLM safety personnel. Charley will continue to monitor and provide input as needed.

**UT (Ausgotharp)**

- The Utah pre-season meeting will begin April 15 and will have one day of HRO training.

**National Office (McDonald)**

- Continue to support the 2014 Wildland Fire Leadership Campaign – The Resilient Team and forward identify leadership in action for use with the “From the Field for the Field” Friday Spotlight on the blog.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 4, 2014**, at 10:30 a.m. (MDT). BFTC members are asked to identify a fill-in if they cannot participate.